

The Groton Independent

Vol. 142 No. 23 ♦ Groton, SD ♦ Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025 ♦ Established in 1889



State Wrestling Qualifiers

Groton Area/Doland State Qualifiers: Pictured left to right are Gavin Englund, junior, 285; Korbin Kucker, senior, 175; Christian Ehresmann, senior, 144; Keegan Kucker, seventh grader, 113; Walker Zoellner, sophomore, 157; Donovan Block, eighth grader, 132; Wyatt Hagen, alternate, eighth grader, 106; Liza Krueger, sophomore, girls 100; Reganne Miles, Doland senior, girls 165; and Kyla Logan, Doland senior, girls 138. (Photo from Groton Area Facebook Page)

City Council adapts garbage collection routes amid seasonal frost concerns

By Elizabeth Varin

In response to the seasonal challenges posed by thawing frost, the Groton City Council voted to temporarily adjust garbage collection routes.

The decision aims to safeguard city streets against potential damage from larger vehicles.

Residents need to bring their garbage to Main Street, Highway 37, Sixth Street or Railroad Avenue beginning on Tuesday, March 4.

Those who are unable to bring their garbage to those streets are encouraged to contact city hall for assistance.

Summer recreation staff hires begin

The council has begun hiring summer recreation staff.

The first four hires include Kami Lipp (swimming pool manager), Aaron Severson (junior legion coach), Sydney Kurtz (U10 softball coach) and Kyle Gerlach (junior teener coach).

The council approved an ordinance setting summer recreation employee salaries. Those salaries include:

- Public works laborer/park caretaker at \$16.30 per hour plus 25 cents for each year of service
- Cemetery caretaker at \$16.30 per hour plus 25 cents for each year of service
- Swimming pool manager at \$16.30 per hour plus 25 cents for each year of service at the swimming pool
- Assistant part time swimming pool manager at \$14.30 per hour plus 25 cents for each year of service at the swimming pool
- Swimming pool lifeguard at \$11.50 per hour plus 25 cents for each year of service
- WSI lifeguards during swimming lessons at their regular salary plus \$1 and a \$25 bonus per private lesson
- WSI assistant lifeguard during swimming lessons at their regular salary plus 50 cents per hour
- Concessions manager at \$75 daily plus 50 percent of net profits
- Baseball coordinator at \$2,000 yearly plus \$77.32 per year of service
- Softball coordinator at \$2,000 yearly plus \$25.77 per year of service
- Legion baseball coach at \$4,000 yearly
- Junior legion baseball coach at \$3,000 yearly plus \$51.55 per year of service
- Junior teener baseball coach at \$3,000 yearly plus \$51.55 per year of service
- Day baseball/softball coach at \$2,500

yearly plus \$50 per year of service

- Girls softball coach (U8, U10, U12, U14) at \$1,000 yearly plus \$20.62 per year of service
- Baseball groundskeeper at \$11.50 per hour plus 25 cents per year of service
- Baseball gatekeeper at \$11.50 per hour plus 25 cents per year of service

The council approved opening up applications for the remaining summer recreational positions.

Hail repair bid approved

The council awarded a bid for roof repair on ten city buildings.

Dakota Roofing will repair hail damage on the cemetery repair shop, police department, city shop, community center, park restrooms,

park picnic shelter, pool bathhouse, pool gazebo, pool storage shed and city hall/library. The bid totaled \$99,985 with a 10-year warranty on the work. The total is below what the insurance company approved paying out for the repairs.

Council invites bid on more projects

The council authorized city staff to bid street resurfacing work for 2025. While a map of work for the year wasn't available, the city will begin accepting sealed bids for approximately 44,000 square yards of bituminous seal coat and 2,200 square yards of bituminous prime coat.

The council also authorized the city to begin accepting quotes for gravel.

Groton Area February Students of the Month



Pictured in back, left to right, are Rylie Rose (9th), Jerica Locke (11th), Halee Harder (10th) and Kennedy Hansen (12th); in front, left to right, are Zachary Flihs (8th), Liam Lord (7th) and Emmett Zoellner (6th).

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



Groton Community March Calendar

Saturday, March 1

State Wrestling Tournament in Rapid City

Region 1A Boys Basketball
End of Third Quarter

Saturday, March 15

State A Girls Tournament, Spearfish (BHSU)

Sunday, March 2

Open Gym, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Pancake Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

United Methodist: Worship with communion at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School; Meeting with Pastor Renee from Synod following worship; Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 3

Senior Menu: Beef stew, corn, peaches, biscuit.

School Breakfast: Professor's Stuffed Bagels

School Lunch: Beef sticks, mashed potatoes.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potato with gravy, California blend, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Mrs. White's Waffles.

School Lunch: Tacos.

Region 1A Boys Basketball

City Council Meeting, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist: New Bible Study - Book of Ruth, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 5

ASH WEDNESDAY

Senior Menu: Baked fish, Mac n Cheese, peas, fruit, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Colonel Mustard's Muffins.

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, mixed vegetables

Groton Chamber Meeting, Noon, City Hall

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Lenten Supper, 6 p.m. (Host-WELCA Board), worship, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 6

Senior Menu: New England Ham Dinner, carrots, Mandarin Orange salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Ballroom Breakfast Pizza.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, fries.

Girls SoDak16 Basketball

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Friday, March 7

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle hotdish, mixed vegetables, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Confidential Egg Wraps.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, green beans.

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Saturday, March 8

Sunday, March 9

SPRING FORWARD - Turn Clocks ahead 1 hour

Open Gym: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship/Milestones for 7th and 8th graders, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 10

Senior Menu: Beef tips on rice, Capri blend, oranges with vanilla pudding, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, corn.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens Meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

United Methodist: PEO Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11

Senior Menu: Tatertot hot dish, green beans, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg Omelet.

School Lunch: Sloppy joe, tater tots.

Boys SoDak16 Basketball

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 12

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, California blend, Cherry fluff, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, potato wedges.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Lenten Supper, 6 p.m. (host - Emmanuel Men), worship, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 13

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potato with gravy, peaches, peas and carrots, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Chicken nachoes, refried beans.

State A Girls Tournament, Spearfish (BHSU)

Groton Lions Club Meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main.

Friday, March 14

Senior Menu: Chicken strips, au gratin, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast cookie.

School Lunch: Fish nuggets, baby bakers.

State A Girls Tournament, Spearfish (BHSU)

Sunday, March 16

Open Gym: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 17

St. PATRICK'S DAY

Senior Menu: Corned beef cabbage, masehd potatoes, pistachio pudding salad, corn muffin.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy over masehd potatoes.

Groton Senior Citizens Meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 18

Senior Menu: Parmesan chicken breast, wild rice, italian blend, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Scones.

School Lunch: Pasta with meat sauce.

Middle School Talent Show, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 19

Senior Menu: Hot pork sandwich, sweet potato, green beans, pears.

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Cheese stuffed breadstick, Marinaria sauce.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Lenten Supper, 6 p.m. (Host - Sarah Circle), worship 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Lenten Service, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, apple crisp, garlic toast.

State A Boys Basketball Tournament, Sioux Falls

Spring Break - No School

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA, 1:30 p.m. (Program - Nigeria, Host-Sarah)

Friday, Mach 21

Senior Menu: Vegetable soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon sald, fruit.

State A Boys Basketball Tournament, Sioux Falls

Spring Break - No School

Saturday, March 22

State A Boys Basketball Tournament, Sioux Falls
 Spring Vendor Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., GHS Gym

Sunday, March 23

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; No Sunday School; Coffee hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; No Sunday School
 Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School, Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 24

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, capri blend, fruit, biscuit.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bages.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens Meet, Noon Potluck., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

United Methodist: PEO Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, corn, fruited Jell-O.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, tri taters.

Milbank FFA CDE

NSU Indoor Track Meeting, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.;

Lenten Supper (Host-Nigeria Circle), 6 p.m.;

Worship, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, March 26

Senior Menu: Pork chop, scalloped potatoes, winter blend, oranges, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Quesadilla, southwest corn.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.;

Lenten Service, 7 p.m.
 United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 27

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, mixed vegetables, pineapple, cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Old school chili, cornbread.

Friday, March 28

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potato and gravy, carrots, strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg wraps.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, cooked carrots.

Saturday, March 29**Sunday, March 30**

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 10:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m.; at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 31

Senior Menu: Pork cutlet, creamy noodles, California Blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Chicken breast, mashed potatoes.

First Allowable Day of Girls Golf

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

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Avera.org/StLukes

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 format.

Crossword grid with letters and black squares, including words like 'MRS', 'GNAT', 'FIRE', etc.

Hanlon Brothers Gravel Hauling advertisement featuring an excavator and a truck. Text includes 'New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe' and phone number '605/395-6531'.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup
By Jordan Wright

Last week we covered the quarterback position in our yearly roster breakdown, so this week we turn our attention to the ground game. The Vikings were 19th in the league with 109.1 rushing yards per game. There is certainly room for improvement, but it was still a massive improvement over the 2023 season when the Vikings ranked 29th with only 91.4 yards per game.

Aaron Jones, released by the Green Bay Packers last offseason, immediately signed with the Vikings and was inserted into the starting lineup on day one. Jones led the team with 255 carries for 1,138 yards and five rushing touchdowns. He signed a one-year contract so he will be a free agent this offseason, but Jones has mentioned to the media that he would like to be back next year. The problem is that he is 30 years old, which is usually when running backs start to decline. Will the Vikings elect to bring him back and try to squeeze one more productive season out of him? Or will the team look for a younger and/or cheaper option?

Cam Akers was the primary backup last year, carrying the ball 64 times for 297 yards and a touchdown, and he's had an interesting relationship with the Vikings. In September 2023, the Vikings sent a conditional 6th-round pick to the Los Angeles Rams for Akers and a conditional 7th-round pick. A month and a half later, Akers was injured and placed on

IR, ending his season. He was then signed by the Houston Texans last offseason. In October 2024, the Vikings sent a conditional 6th-round draft pick to the Texans for Cam Akers and a conditional 7th-round pick. Like Jones, Akers is a free agent this offseason. Will the Vikings bring the 25-year-old back? Or will they let him sign somewhere else, then send that team a conditional 6th-round pick to get him back?

Ty Chandler is the only running back currently under contract for the Vikings in 2025. He was in line to be the primary backup last season, but he got bumped down to third on the depth chart after the Vikings brought back Akers. Chandler had 56 carries for 182 yards in 2024, which aren't great numbers, but he is relatively cheap and will likely be battling for the backup role this offseason.

At fullback, C.J. Ham is under contract through 2025. Ham is a local kid and a fan favorite, but the Vikings don't use a fullback much. With a \$3.4M cap hit, it's possible the Vikings cut him this offseason and put that money elsewhere.

What will the Vikings do at running back this offseason? There aren't a ton of free agent running backs this offseason, but luckily this is a good year to get one in the draft. The Vikings don't have a ton of picks this year, but I still expect the team to figure out a way to draft one. I also think if he's cheap enough, the Vikings will bring Jones back for one more season. With J.J. McCarthy in line to start next season, having a potent ground game will be vital for the young QB to be successful in 2025.

Hamlin is double winner in Northeast Conference

Hamlin will be the Northeast Conference champions in both the boys and girls division with an undefeated record of 10-0. Groton Area is the runner-up in the boys division while Roncalli and Groton Area share runner-up honors in the girls division.

It appears that the Tiospa-Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake game will not be made up on the girls side and I'm not sure about the boys side yet.

Girls NEC Standings

Table of Girls NEC Standings: Hamlin 10-0, Roncalli 8-2, Groton Area 8-2, Milbank 7-3, Sisseton 6-4, Clark/Willow Lake 5-4, Webster Area 4-6, Deuel 3-7, Britton-Hecla 2-8, Redfield 1-9, Tiospa Zina 0-9.

Feb. 18
Hamlin 79, Britton-Hecla 23
Sisseton 59, Deuel 35
Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark (PP)

Feb. 20
Aberdeen Roncalli 58, Deuel 24
Milbank 64, Webster 34
Hamlin 79, Clark-Willow Lake 59

Feb. 21
Groton 61, Britton-Hecla 21
Redfield 56, Tiospa Zina 25

Boys NEC Standings

Table of Boys NEC Standings: Hamlin 10-0, Groton Area 9-1, Clark/Willow Lake 7-2, Deuel 7-3, Milbank 5-4, Roncalli 5-5, Sisseton 3-7, Britton-Hecla 3-7, Webster Area 3-7, Redfield 1-9, Tiospa Zina 0-8.

Feb. 18
Hamlin 61, Britton-Hecla 16
Deuel 71, Sisseton 57
Tiospa Zina vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark (PP)

Feb. 20
Deuel 57, Aberdeen Roncalli 53
Hamlin 69, Clark-Willow Lake 47

Feb. 21
Groton 63, Britton-Hecla 31
Milbank 68, Webster 40
Redfield 74, Tiospa Zina 66

Feb. 22: Webster 71, Redfield 41
Feb. 24: Roncalli 66, Tiospa Zina 27
Feb. 28: Milbank at Tiospa Zina

Queen of Hearts

The Queen of Hearts drawing was held Thursday night at the Groton American Legion. The jackpot is \$15,448. Ticket sales for the week was \$1,145 with 10% (\$114) going to the consolation winner. The name of Joel Bierman was drawn. He had card number 46 and the card was the Queen of Diamonds. The Queen of Hearts will now continue into week number 19.

Thank you for subscribing!

Table with columns: #, Name, Season, W, L, PCT, Seed Pts. Lists teams like Groton Area, Aberdeen Roncalli, Milbank, Britton-Hecla, Sisseton, Webster Area, Redfield with their respective records and points.

The Life of Tobias Erickson



Tobias "Toby" Lee Erickson, 63, of Billings, Montana passed away suddenly at his home on February 5, 2025, following a cardiac event. His beloved wife, Missy, daughter, Emily, and dog, Bailey, were by his side as he left this world.

Christened a "turkey baby" by his mother, Toby was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 1961, to Gertrude (Clifton) Erickson and Myron Erickson in Sisseton, South Dakota while the family resided in New Effington, South Dakota. Toby was the second youngest in a family of five children. Gertie and Myron set an excellent example of tenacity and industry for their children by opening their own company, Dependable Sanitation, in the face of many challenges including severe damage to their home by a tornado and Myron's suffering a debilitating stroke. These characteristics

were present in every aspect of Toby's life and were values he instilled in his children.

As a child, Toby loved creating mischief and cracking jokes, as well as many athletic pursuits, mainly wrestling and football. Toby went on to compete individually for Groton High School in the South Dakota State Championship Wrestling Tournaments of 1978, 1979, and 1980, taking home first place for his weight class (112lbs) in 1979. Following his graduation from Groton High School in 1980, Toby was offered a wrestling scholarship to attend Montana State University in Bozeman where he found his two great loves. MSU Bobcat Football and his soulmate, Missy Neville.

In June of 1981, Missy and Toby met at the now-defunct Bozeman bar, The Slide Company. She asked him to dance, and he filled her beer mug for a quarter; they have been inseparable since. They shared their first official date eating Pickle Barrel Cheesesteaks next to Hyalite Reservoir. Toby and Missy were married at the Holy Rosary Church in Bozeman on August 6, 1983, and shared 41 years of adventures. Toby was readily accepted by the Neville family and formed a close bond with Ron, Missy's father, based on their shared love for card games, hunting, and fierce competition.

After a brief stint in Aberdeen, South Dakota, Missy and Toby moved back to Bozeman, Montana in 1984 where they welcomed their first daughter, Emily Ann, in 1988. Toby returned to MSU shortly after Emily's birth and graduated in June 1992 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. It is here that he met his lifelong best friend, Camrin Koenig.

Toby's job then relocated the family to Tucson, Arizona where his second daughter, Addysin Nicole, was born in 1993. As Toby continued to excel in his career, the family moved to Houston, Texas then Corona, California, and finally settled back in Houston, Texas. For the next 13 years, Toby reveled in hosting numerous backyard pool parties, Thanksgiving celebrations, and countless motorcycle rides with Missy through the Texas backcountry. During this time, Emily married Darin Zanto in 2010, and he quickly became the son that Toby never had. In 2013, Emily proudly recruited Toby to Anvil Corporation as a Senior Project Manager, where he celebrated his 10th anniversary with the company in December of 2023. Working together was one of the greatest joys of both father and daughter. Missy and Toby happily relocated to Billings, Montana just in time for the birth of their first granddaughter Peyton Ella Zanto in 2014. In 2019, they welcomed their second granddaughter Paige Emerson Zanto. In the fall of 2022, Addy had the privilege of her dad escorting her down the aisle when she married Patrick Costello, and with this Toby's family was complete.

While Toby was a talented engineer and leader, he excelled in his roles as "Daddy" and "Papa," and he adored his girls. He walked the perfect line between a nonjudgmental protector and a trusted advisor. He beamed with pride anytime he talked about his family and was always happy to brag about their achievements to any passing stranger or co-worker.

Toby also had a unique gift of genuine play that inspired children and adults alike to have fun and cut loose. In his last few years, he leaned into all the things that brought him joy: hosting poker parties, movie line drops at work with Emily, camping trips with family, guiding giant flotillas down the Madison River, competitively fishing with Addy, perfecting his Old Fashioned recipe with Darin, golfing after work, playing made up games with his grand girls, spoiling his dog, Bailey, going to Bobcat football games with his nephew, Nick, and most of all traveling with his great love, Missy, all over the country in their camper the "Mellencamp Mansion".

He was an "expert" on everything (and he would tell you how you are doing it wrong), an insanely good corn hole and card game player, a devoted husband of 41 years, a fascinating storyteller, a Bobcat fan through and through, every kid's favorite playmate, a passionate trash talker, a steadfast friend, an excellent cocktail maker, the best Papa to his grand girls and about a million other wonderful things. To know him really was to love him! His presence will leave a lasting void in the lives of all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Missy of Billings, MT daughters; Addy (Patrick) of Bozeman, MT, and Emily (Darin), granddaughters; Peyton and Paige of Billings, MT; his mother Gertrude of Groton, SD, brothers; Mike (Carolyn) of Aberdeen, SD, and Terry (Marilyn) of Springfield, MO; sisters; Tami (Rich) Zimney of Ferney, SD, and Tracey (Neil) Erickson of Republic, MO; brothers-in-law; Sam (Jan) Neville of Bozeman, MT, and Tony (Deborah) Neville of Bozeman, MT, as well as, numerous nieces and nephews.

Toby was preceded in death by his father, Myron, father-in-law, Ron Neville, mother-in-law, Jeannine Neville, and many beloved family dogs - Jessie, Sadie, Molly, Monte, and Shayla.

Three celebrations of life will be held in different locations that were important to Toby. The first to be held in Billings on March 8th, 2025, from 3-7 pm at the Laurel Golf Club where drinks and appetizers will be served. Please come prepared to share your favorite "Toby" story. The Groton, SD Celebration of Life will be held in Spring 2025. The Bozeman, MT Celebration of Life will be held in Summer 2025. Details on these events will be announced as plans come together.

In lieu of flowers, Toby's family asks that you crack open a Miller Lite for him and/or contribute to the Montana Wildlife Federation to help conserve wildlife, habitat, and outdoor public access.

The Life of Leonard Garness



Services for Leonard Garness, 90, of Sun City West, Arizona and formerly of Groton will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 1st at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Mike Kampa will officiate. Burial with military honors will be held in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m.

Leonard passed away February 14, 2025, at Aria Ranch Assisted Living Center in Surprise, Arizona following a brief illness.

Leonard Eugene was born in Carthage, SD on December 2, 1934 to Olaf and Mabel (Sneesby) Garness. He attended and graduated from Carthage High School continuing his education at South Dakota State University. He took a break in his education to join the US army and was stationed in Chicago during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge he returned to his education at Northern State Teacher's College where he met his future wife, Sheila Paetznick. He transferred to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for Geological Engineering. He nearly completed his engineering degree when he changed the direction of his education and chose to attend Worsham's School of Mortuary Science with intentions to run the family business. After receiving his mortuary science degree, the couple purchased the Paetznick Funeral Home and Furniture Store, changing the name to Paetznick-Garness Funeral Home and Furniture Store.

He was united in marriage with Sheila Ann Paetznick on June 15, 1959 and the couple made their home in Groton. Leonard, along with Sheila devoting their time to their family, friends, the furniture store, and the funeral home. They especially enjoyed the time they spent with family and friends at their lake cabin on Enemy Swim Lake, where they retired in 1999. Leonard and Sheila eventually began wintering in Sun City West, Arizona, where he spent much of his free time on the golf courses.

Leonard was a member of the Presbyterian Church and served on the Groton City Council. He was a member of the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association, where he served as district president multiple times and was awarded a lifetime membership in 2016. He was part of the committee that helped to bring the swimming pool to the Groton community and enjoyed investing in the future of the community and surrounding area. He was a member of the Groton Legion, Groton Kiwanis Club, a charter member of Olive Grove Golf Course, a member of the Valley View Country Club in Sisseton, and in Sun City West, AZ he enjoyed golfing with the Old Duffer's Golf League, the Heat Seekers Golf League, and the Stardust Golf League. Leonard enjoyed his time at Enemy Swim Lake, golfing, fishing, boating, visiting and entertaining family and friends.

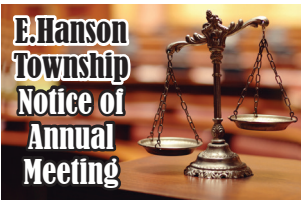
Celebrating his life are his children, Leigh Ann (Randy) Giedt of Sun City West, Arizona; Patty Garness of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Charlie (Ken) Klauer of Blacksburg, Virginia; Thor (Emily) Garness of Lakeville, Minnesota, and six grandchildren: Jim (Erin) Giedt, Nicholas (Sadie Stoumen) Giedt, Garreth Klauer, Samantha, Allie, and Thorson Garness. One great-grandson Riley James Giedt, and expecting one great-grandson. Leonard is also survived by sister-in-law Jessie Garness of Mitchell, South Dakota, several nieces and nephews, and many close friends.

Preceding him in death were his wife, Sheila, of 52 years, his parents Olaf and Mabel Garness, 2 brothers Roger and Dennis Garness, his sister Carolyn Garness, sisters -in-law Alice Garness and Sondra Odland and brother-in-law Winston Odland, 1 niece, 2 great nephews.

Honorary Casketbearers are all of Leonard's friends.

Casketbearers are Jim Giedt, Nicholas Giedt, Garreth Klauer, Bryant Odland, Gary Petersen, and Robb Roettele.

Memorials may be directed to the American Heart Association or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. www.paetznick-garness.com



Notice is hereby given that the annual East Hanson Township caucus and election of officers along with the other business that may come before the board will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Bids for gravel, road maintenance and mowing will be opened at that time.

Lynn Miller
East Hanson Township Clerk
Published Feb. 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$5.52 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25291



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Groton City Council on the 4th day of March, 2025 at the hour of 7:00pm in City Hall, 120 N Main St, Groton, South Dakota will meet in regular session to consider the following transfer applications for alcoholic beverage licenses to operate within the City of Groton, South Dakota for the 2025 licensing period, which has been presented to the governing body and filed on the Finance Office.

From: Darren and Lisa Locke, dba D & L Enterprises (COCOS), 2 W US Highway 12. Retail (On-Sale) Liquor.

To: Keith Landwehr, dba American Grain LLC, 2 W US Highway 12. Retail (On-Sale) Liquor.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person, persons, or their representative may appear at said scheduled public hearing and present objections to any or all of the above applicants, if any objections there be.

Dated at Groton, South Dakota this 24th day of February, 2025.

Douglas Heinrich, Finance Officer

Published Feb. 26, 2025 at the total approximate cost of \$13.18 and may be viewed free of charge at www.sdpublicnotices.com. 25289

Groton Dominates Redfield in Region 1A Tournament Opener

The Groton Area Tigers came out firing on all cylinders Tuesday night, overpowering the Redfield Pheasants 44-9 in the first round of the Region 1A Girls Basketball Tournament at Groton. From the opening tip, Groton's aggressive defense and efficient shooting set the tone for a dominant performance.

The Tigers wasted no time building an early advantage, jumping out to a 14-2 lead by the end of the first quarter. Their relentless pressure on defense forced numerous Redfield turnovers, and Groton capitalized with quick transition baskets. By halftime, the Tigers had widened the gap to 31-4, with their defense holding Redfield to just two made field goals in the first 16 minutes.

As the third quarter progressed, Groton's lead continued to grow. When Taryn Traphagen sank a mid-range jumper with 4:53 left in the period, the mercy rule was enforced as the Tigers reached a 35-4 advantage. By the time the quarter ended, Groton had stretched their lead to 41-6, putting the game well out of reach.

Faith Traphagen led the Tigers in scoring with 11 points, followed closely by her sister, Taryn Traphagen, who added 10. Brooklyn Hansen and Rylee Dunker each contributed 6 points, while Chesney Weber scored 4 and led the team with 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Talli Wright added 3 points, and Jerica Locke and Jaedyn Penning each chipped in 2.

Groton's defensive intensity was a difference-maker, as they racked up 17 steals, with Faith Traphagen leading the way with 7. The Tigers forced 30 Redfield turnovers and held them to just 14 percent shooting from the field (3-for-21).

For Redfield, Charli Jungwirth was the bright spot, leading the team with 5 points. Brynn Giblin and Kinley Smith each scored 2. The Pheasants struggled to find any rhythm against Groton's smothering defense and managed just three field goals the entire game.

Despite committing 15 turnovers of their own, Groton was efficient offensively, shooting 43 percent (12-of-28) on two-pointers and 36 percent (5-of-14) from beyond the arc. Their free throw shooting matched their three-point percentage at 36 percent (5-of-14).

With the dominant victory, Groton advances to the next round of the Region 1A Tournament, carrying momentum and confidence into their next challenge. Redfield, meanwhile, will look to regroup and build for the future after a tough night on the court. Groton Area will play Sisseton, 7 p.m., at the Groton Area Arena.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT



Taryn Traphagen launches a three-pointer. She made two three-pointers in the first half, contributing 10 points to the Tiger tally. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Paul Kosel)

Groton Stats

Jerica Locke: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 foul.
Jaedyn Penning: 2 points, 1 rebound, 4 fouls.
Kennedy Hansen: 1 rebound, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
Brooklyn Hansen: 6 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal.
Rylee Dunker: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals.
Faith Traphagen: 11 points, 1 rebound, 7 steals.
Laila Roberts: 3 assists, 1 steal, 2 fouls.
Taryn Traphagen: 10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal.
Talli Wright: 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 foul.
Mia Crank: 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 foul.
McKenna Tietz: 1 rebound, 1 steal.
Chesney Weber: 4 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.
Ashlynn Warrington: 1 rebound, 2 steals.
Sydney Locke: 1 rebound, 1 foul.

2-Pointers: 12-28 43%, 3-Pointers: 5-14 36%, Free Throws: 5-14 36%, 23 rebounds, 15 turnovers, 13 assists, 17 steals, 12 fouls.

Redfield: Charlie Jungwirth 5, Brynn Giblin 2, Kinley Smith 2. Field Goals: 3-21 14%, Free Throws 3-4 75%, 12 fouls, 30 turnovers.
Records: Groton Area 15-6. Redfield: 3-18.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bary Keith of Harr Motors, Bierman Farm service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Farmers Union Coop of Ferney and Conde, Greg Johnson Construction of Bristol, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Ken's Food Fair, Lori's Pharmacy, Olive Grove Golf Course, Rix Farms/R&M Farms, S & S Lumber, Spanier Harvesting, Sun & Sea Travel, The MeatHouse of Andover and Weismantel Agency of Columbia. Paul Kosel and Jeslyn Kosel were on hand for the action.

Gladiators pushing for a state win this weekend

After 4 Trips to the Finals in a Row, Team Gladiators is pushing for a win this weekend at the South Dakota State Championships at SDSU!

After being 2nd seed out of 24 going into the final matches, Team Gladiators just missed the win on February 15th in Spearfish, partnering with Mitchell and playing against 2 teams from Harrisburg. The last week and a half all the teams have been diligently focusing on strategy planning and speed, updating gears and doing the final tweaks necessary to focus on bringing home the Championship this weekend.

This tournament will be held on the SDSU campus this weekend at the University Student Union. Friday qualifying matches are from 6-8pm. Saturday they will start at 9am. The Groton Community is welcome to join us! Check us out on our Facebook page for a link to watch it live to watch or come see us in person!

Spearfish Robotics Tournament Rankings (2/15/2025):

9050F – Gladiators: Garrett Schultz, Lead; Rylee Hofer, Jameson Penning & Haden Harder

Qualifier Ranking – 2nd out of 24. (5 Wins/1 Loss) Won Quarter Finals, Semi Finals, Lost in the Championship 21 to 32.

9050E – Galaxy: Axel Warrington & Corbin Weismantel, Co-Lead; Illyanna Dallaire & Ayce Warrington

Qualifier Ranking – Rank 16th out of 24. (3 Wins/3 Losses) Loss in Quarter Finals 10 to 43.

9050B – Gearheads: Logan & Kira Clocksene, Co-Lead; Peyton Padfield & Emmett Zoellner

Qualifier Ranking – Rank 17th out of 24 (3 Wins/3 Losses) Loss in Quarter Finals 15 to 31.



Garrett Schultz - Team Lead - 9050F Gladiators. (Courtesy Photo)

The Life of Dennis K. Larson



Services for Dennis K. Larson, 84, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 1st at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Nicole Phillips, SAM will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Feb. 28th from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Dennis passed away February 18, 2025, at his home.

Dennis K. Larson was born December 3, 1940, in Britton, South Dakota to Clifford M. and Alice Mabel (Johnson) Larson.

Dennis was raised on a farm east of Langford, South Dakota. He attended the Hoines Country School #203 until 8th grade. He graduated from Langford High School in 1958. He continued his education at Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen, South Dakota and graduated with a degree in Business Administration and Economics in 1962. While attending Northern he played football,

forging many strong friendships that endure to this day. On August 19, 1961, he married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Jones. They shared 63 wonderful years together; 70 years if you count their dating years! They were blessed with two children, Eric and LaRae.

His first job out of college was with First National Corporation, now Wells Fargo. He was transferred to First National Bank in Groton on October 1, 1965, as the assistant manager. Dennis rented a farm outside of Groton in 1970, which is their current home. He farmed full time until 1981. In 1986 he created L & S Agency Incorporated until his retirement on January 1, 2014. He and Shirley enjoyed 22 years of wintering in Mesa, Arizona. He cherished his many friendships through numerous groups. His favorite trips were made more memorable because he experienced them with his family.

Dennis grew up working on the family farm. From a young age he was instilled with the value of hard work and caring for others. Life was not easy, but through it all there were many blessings, much happiness, and forever relationships. His strong faith was always his center, his true north. When things got tough, he always looked to the Lord for guidance and knew He would provide. His faith never wavered but continued to grow in all of his years. He was an active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church holding many positions in service of the church.

His love and commitment to his family was incredible. He loved unconditionally. He taught his children and grandchildren to be generous and compassionate with all people you encounter. Dennis was always present, whether it was an athletic/school event, which meant driving late into the night, or a scheduled phone call on a Sunday evening. When he committed to something, he followed through to the best of his ability. All people in Dennis' life were considered family. He was the type of person that you could simply just sit and visit with, forever marked by his special touch. You see, relationships mattered to Dennis. People were important to Dennis, and he showed that time and time again. He served on multiple boards and committees all throughout his life, starting with the Aberdeen Jaycees and ending with Lutheran Outdoors, with many in between. He continued to serve others in all that he did. He made a difference far and wide in our community and many communities in the surrounding area. He was always looking for a way to give back. His guiding Bible verse was Luke 12:48 "To whom much is given, much is expected." His advice to all is to, "Stay close to your faith, your family, and just have a happy life."

Dennis is survived by his wife, Shirley, son Eric (Becky) Larson Mitchell, SD, daughter LaRae (Steve) Blote, Rapid City; grandchildren, the joy of his life, Connor and Lauren Larson, (fiancé Matthew Billion), Emily and Grace Blote, twin brother Dale Larson, brother Roger (Diane) Larson, sister Joyce Skovran, brother-in-law Kenny (Sherry) Jones, sister-in-law Penny (Bill) Stolle, Darla Larson, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Alice Larson, in-laws Kenneth and Rose Jones, brother Clark Larson, brothers-in-law James L. Jones, Brian Jones, and Andy Skovran, and sisters-in-law Bonnie Larson and Marlene Jones.

In lieu of flowers Dennis requested any memorial contributions be directed to the following: Palliative Care/Hospice Care at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Lutheran Outdoors, Lutheran Social Services, Groton Baseball Association, or the Northern State University Foundation.

Krueger takes first at regions

The Region 1B Wrestling Tournament was held Thursday in Clark. Groton Area's Liza Krueger took first place at 100 pounds. She won two matches by a pin and the third by a technical fall. Krueger will advance to the state tournament Feb. 27-March 1 in Rapid City.

100: Liza Krueger (42-2) placed 1st and scored 25.5 team points.

Quarterfinal - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 42-2 won by fall over Elly Murphy (Dell Rapids) 6-15 (Fall 3:51)

Semifinal - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 42-2 won by tech fall over Vanessa Anderson (Watertown) 29-23 (TF-1.5 4:37 (17-0))

1st Place Match - Liza Krueger (Groton Area) 42-2 won by fall over Emery Voelker (Tea Area) 16-11 (Fall 3:44)

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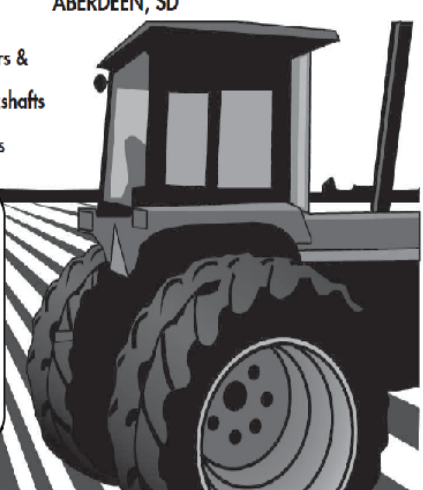
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Groton Area qualifies six wrestlers for state

Six Groton Area wrestlers qualified for the state tournament after placing in the top four in region competition held Saturday in Hamlin. The state tournament will be held February 27 - March 1 in Rapid City.

Korbin Kucker took first place in the region, Christian Ehresmann placed second, Keegan Kucker placed third and in fourth place were Donavon Block, Walker Zoellner and Gavin Englund.

Team Standings: 1. Kingsbury County 191.5; 2. Clark/Willow Lake 172.0; 3. Sisseton 166.5; 4. Faulkton Area 160.0; 5. Groton Area 158.5; 6. Redfield 131.5; 7. Deuel/Deubrook Area 97.5; 8. Webster Area 83.5; 9. Britton-Hecla 67.0; 10. Sioux Valley 59.0; 11. Potter County 57.5; 12. Sully Buttes 35.5; 13. Warner/Northwestern 27.5; 14. Hamlin/Castlewood 25.0; 15. Ipswich/Bowdle 13.0; 16. Doland 0.0; 16. Tiospa Zina 0.0

175: Korbin Kucker (36-4) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 36-4 won by forfeit.
Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 36-4 won by fall over Liam Gunnon (Kingsbury County) 9-19 (Fall 0:37)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 36-4 won by decision over Ben Suther (Britton-Hecla) 36-14 (Dec 7-2)

1st Place Match - Korbin Kucker (Groton Area) 36-4 won in sudden victory - 1 over Korbin Whiteley (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 23-4 (SV-1 6-1)

144: Christian Ehresmann (29-4) placed 2nd and scored 24.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 29-4 won by fall over Ayden Understock (Redfield) 5-11 (Fall 0:34)

Quarterfinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 29-4 won by fall over Rayin Mansfield (Warner/Northwestern) 3-8 (Fall 0:55)

Semifinal - Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 29-4 won by fall over Austin Vig (Clark/Willow Lake) 37-16 (Fall 0:18)

1st Place Match - Bryce Hawkinson (Britton-Hecla) 31-3 won by decision over Christian Ehresmann (Groton Area) 29-4 (Dec 14-10)

113: Keegan Kucker (30-10) placed 3rd and scored 16.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 30-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 30-10 won by decision over Chace Odland (Redfield) 30-18 (Dec 13-7)

Semifinal - Kayden Tchida (Sisseton) 34-4 won by tech fall over Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 30-10 (TF-1.5 3:22 (15-0))

Cons. Semi - Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 30-10 won by fall over Gage Landmark (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 14-21 (Fall 2:38)

3rd Place Match - Keegan Kucker (Groton Area) 30-10 won by decision over Tayten Kurkowski (Webster Area) 12-6 (Dec 5-2)

132: Donavon Block (29-15) placed 4th and scored 13.5 team points.

Quarterfinal - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-15 won by tech fall over Tyson Hagberg (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 25-25 (TF-1.5 3:45 (20-4))

Semifinal - Gannon Gilligan (Kingsbury County) 43-4 won by tech fall over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-15 (TF-1.5 3:46 (22-2))

Cons. Semi - Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-15 won by fall over Matthew Field (Sioux Valley) 11-23 (Fall 2:36)

3rd Place Match - Isaac Johnson (Clark/Willow Lake) 37-18 won by major decision over Donavon Block (Groton Area) 29-15 (MD 13-1)

157: Walker Zoellner (28-10) placed 4th and scored 18.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 28-10 won by fall over Austin Nash (Warner/Northwestern) 9-29 (Fall 3:40)

Quarterfinal - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 28-10 won by fall over Ely Heuertz (Sully Buttes) 12-21 (Fall 1:49)

Semifinal - Gavin Kloos (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 30-7 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 28-10 (MD 9-1)

Cons. Semi - Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 28-10 won by fall over Trace Genzler (Potter County) 23-19 (Fall 2:29)

3rd Place Match - Donovan Sandven (Kingsbury County) 24-16 won by major decision over Walker Zoellner (Groton Area) 28-10 (MD 11-1)

285: Gavin Englund (30-9) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-9 won by major decision over Dalton Rathjen (Redfield) 25-22 (MD 16-3)

Semifinal - Preston Cavalier (Warner/Northwestern) 40-3 won by fall over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-9 (Fall 1:36)

Cons. Semi - Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-9 won by fall over Tytian Lauseng (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 7-31 (Fall 1:37)

3rd Place Match - Owen Vandeweerd (Sioux Valley) 41-7 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton Area) 30-9 (Dec 2-1)

106: Wyatt Hagen (27-10) placed 5th and scored 11.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 won by major decision over Lincoln Kilker (Britton-Hecla) 15-23 (MD 15-2)

Quarterfinal - Gavin Mattson (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 20-15 won by tech fall over Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 (TF-1.5 5:13 (16-1))

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 won by decision over Easton Rausch (Potter County) 32-20 (Dec 8-4)

Cons. Semi - Chase Henriksen (Kingsbury County) 39-11 won by decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 (Dec 11-7)

5th Place Match - Wyatt Hagen (Groton Area) 27-10 won by major decision over Kyson Sundberg (Sioux Valley) 37-22 (MD 20-6)

215: Charlie Frost (25-18) placed 5th and scored 15.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 25-18 won by forfeit.

Quarterfinal - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 25-18 won by fall over Riley Popp (Clark/Willow Lake) 18-26 (Fall 5:19)

Semifinal - Camden Murray (Redfield) 43-3 won by tech fall over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 25-18 (TF-1.5 1:59 (17-2))

Cons. Semi - Foster Bode (Faulkton Area) 26-14 won by decision over Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 25-18 (Dec 7-2)

5th Place Match - Charlie Frost (Groton Area) 25-18 won by fall over Riley Popp (Clark/Willow Lake) 18-26 (Fall 2:45)

120: Kyson Kucker (25-14) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.

Quarterfinal - Cash Edgar (Faulkton Area) 43-8 won by fall over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 25-14 (Fall 0:28)

Cons. Round 1 - Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 25-14 won by fall over Carter Grobe (Britton-Hecla) 14-22 (Fall 3:51)

Cons. Semi - Jack Stuwe (Potter County) 33-18 won by major decision over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 25-14 (MD 15-1)

5th Place Match - Karsten Lerwick (Kingsbury County) 25-19 won by major decision over Kyson Kucker (Groton Area) 25-14 (MD 16-4)

126: Lincoln Krause (21-18) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Lane Stuwe (Potter County) 35-12 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 (Fall 1:05)

Cons. Round 2 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 won by fall over Bentley Fokken (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 25-22 (Fall 1:32)

Cons. Semi - Benny Pommer (Clark/Willow Lake) 37-13 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 (Fall 2:28)

5th Place Match - Logan Smith (Faulkton Area) 34-22 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton Area) 21-18 (Fall 0:42)

165: Ben Hoeft (23-21) placed 6th and scored 9.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Colton Chapin (Britton-Hecla) 13-11 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 (Fall 5:30)

Cons. Round 1 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 won by major decision over Hayden Landmark (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 11-16 (MD 9-0)

Cons. Round 3 - Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 won by fall over AJ Olivier (Sully Buttes) 18-20 (Fall 4:46)

Cons. Semi - Collin Dean (Redfield) 39-16 won by major decision over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 (MD 16-3)

5th Place Match - Ivan Stuwe (Potter County) 24-16 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton Area) 23-21 (Fall 2:21)

138: Chris Schwab (21-19).

Champ. Round 1 - Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 21-19 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Sean Roseland (Faulkton Area) 32-8 won by fall over Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 21-19 (Fall 3:11)

Cons. Round 2 - Damian Severson (Clark/Willow Lake) 17-21 won by fall over Chris Schwab (Groton Area) 21-19 (Fall 4:37)

150: Kason Oswald (9-19).

Champ. Round 1 - Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 9-19 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Landon Coyle (Faulkton Area) 25-7 won by fall over Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 9-19 (Fall 1:07)

Cons. Round 2 - Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 9-19 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Malachi Anderson (Sisseton) 12-16 won by fall over Kason Oswald (Groton Area) 9-19 (Fall 2:47)

190: Layne Johnson (11-23).

Champ. Round 1 - Luke Johnson (Sioux Valley) 6-19 won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 11-23 (Fall 0:25)

Cons. Round 1 - Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 11-23 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Sam Leen (Deuel/Deubrook Area) 17-18 won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton Area) 11-23 (Fall 1:36)

Groton Area Sweeps Britton-Hecla in Dominant Basketball Performance

BRITTON – The Groton Area Tigers had a night to remember on Friday, winning all five basketball games against Britton-Hecla in a commanding fashion. The varsity boys' and girls' teams both enforced the mercy rule, while the junior varsity and C teams added to an undefeated evening for Groton.

Boys Varsity: Groton Rolls Past Britton-Hecla 63-31

The Groton Area boys' varsity team wasted no time asserting dominance, scoring 13 straight points in the first quarter to take an early 23-12 lead. By halftime, they stretched their advantage to 35-19, and the gap widened to 54-27 by the third quarter. The 30-point mercy rule took effect with 6:23 remaining when Groton led 58-28, sealing the 63-31 victory.

Ryder Johnson led the Tigers with 20 points, followed by Keegan Tracy with 16 and Becker Bosma with 10. Groton shot efficiently, making 13 of 20 two-pointers (65%) and 12 of 24 three-pointers (50%), including an impressive 5-of-6 shooting from deep by Tracy. Johnson made four three-pointers while Bosma made two and Turner Thompson one. The Tigers also tallied 23 rebounds, led by Bosma with 8, and 19 assists, with Bosma again leading with 7.

Defensively, Groton forced 17 turnovers while matching that total themselves. Gage Sippel recorded 2 of the team's 3 blocked shots. Despite Britton-Hecla struggling to find offense, Daniel Person put up 24 of his team's 28 points.

With the win, Groton improved to 14-5 on the season and will face Aberdeen Christian next Friday at the Aberdeen Civic Center. Britton-Hecla fell to 9-10.

Girls Varsity: Groton Cruises to 61-21 Victory

The Groton girls' varsity team dominated from the start, building a 23-6 lead in the first quarter and heading into halftime up 41-16. By the third quarter, the mercy rule was triggered with 4:33 left as Groton extended its lead to 47-16 before closing out the game at 61-21.

A well-balanced offensive attack saw multiple players contribute, with Jerica Locke leading the way with 10 points. The Tigers were efficient inside, making 20 of 39 two-point attempts (51%), and hit 4 of 17 three-pointers (24%). Locke, Kennedy Hanson, Laila Roberts, and Taryn Traphagen each knocked down a three-pointer.

Groton controlled the glass with 24 rebounds, led by Roberts with 6, and tallied 24 steals, with Locke, Traphagen, and Roberts

each grabbing 3. The Tigers also dished out 14 assists, with Locke and Roberts each recording 5.

Britton-Hecla struggled offensively, shooting just 30% (6-of-20) and was unable to keep up with Groton's fast pace. With the win, the Lady Tigers improved to 14-6 and will begin regional tournament play on Tuesday in Groton.

Junior Varsity and C Team Wins

The Groton boys' junior varsity squad handled Britton-Hecla 46-23. Ethan Kroll led Groton Area with 14 points, while Ethan Weber, Jayden Schwan, and Asher Johnson each chipped in 7, Logan Warrington had 6 and Anthony Tracy added 2 points. Mitchell Burger and Jace Rein each led Britton-Hecla with 8 points while Nathan Folkman had 4, Riley Hofland 2 and Lofton Heer 1.

In the boys' C game, Groton came out on top 43-20. Jace Johnson had a game-high 17 points, and Asher Johnson contributed 7, Anthony Tracy 6, Ryder Schelle 5, Ethan Kroll 4, Wesley Borg 2, Jordan Schwan 2. Jack Teveder led Britton-Hecla with 10 points while Monte Hoops had 4, Jace Rein 3 and Dylan Redler 3.

On the girls' side, the junior varsity team cruised to a 51-16 win after a dominant second-half performance. Kella Tracy led the way with 13 points, followed by Chesney Weber with 12, McKenna Tietz 10, Ashlynn Warrington 5, Talli Wright 4, Tevan Hanson 3 and Mia Crank 2. Chellon Pruitt led the Braves with 7 points.

Looking Ahead

With both varsity teams entering the region tournament on a high note, Groton Area hopes to carry this momentum into postseason play. The boys will take on Aberdeen Christian next Friday, while the girls continued their region quest with the second game Thursday in Groton, 7 p.m..

- Story compiled by ChatGPT



Gage Sippel goes for the dunk in the third quarter to give Groton Area a 39-21 lead. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Taryn Traphagen: 8 points 3 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 foul.

Mia Crank: 2 points, 1 foul.

McKenna Tietz: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals.

Chesney Weber: 7 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals.

Kella Tracy: 2 steals.

Ashlynn Warrington: 1 rebound.

Sydney Locke: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal.

2-Pointers: 20-39 51%, 3-Pointers: 4-17 24%, Free Throws: 9-16 56%, 24 rebounds, 10 turnovers, 14 assists, 24 steals, 13 foul.

Britton-Hecla: Heather Storbakken 10, Maddi Micko 4, RaeAnn Hagenson 3, Daynika Zuehlke 2, Chellon Pruitt 2. Field Goals: 6-20 30%, Free Throws: 6-16 38%, 15 fouls, 28 turnovers.

Boys Varsity Stats

Ryder Johnson: 20 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal.

Keegan Tracy: 16 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 2 fouls.

Gage Sippel: 4 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 1 foul, 2 blocks.

Becker Bosma: 10 points, 8 rebounds, 7 assists, 1 block.

Blake Pauli: 1 rebound, 1 foul.

Karson Zak: 4 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Easton Weber: 4 points.

Turner Thompson: 5 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 fouls.

Jayden Schwan: 2 assists, 1 steal, 4 fouls.

Logan Warrington: 1 rebound.

2-Pointers: 13-20 65%, 3-Pointers: 12-24 50%, Free Throws: 1-4 25%, 23 rebounds, 17 turnovers, 19 assists, 6 steals, 9 fouls, 3 blocks.

Britton-Hecla: Daniel Person 24, Graham Fosness 2, Jordyn McGregor 2, Jaxon Zuehlke 2, Chaz Vietor 1. Field Goals: 10-24 29%, Free Throws: 10-12 83%, 7 fouls, 17 turnovers.

All five games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. The varsity games were sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms and The Meathouse in Andover. Jeslyn Kosel did the girls junior varsity game sponsored by Weber Landscaping. Paul Kosel did the boys junior varsity game sponsored by Hefty Seed. The C game was sponsored by Jeff and Lisa Howard.

Girls Varsity Stats

Jerica Locke: 10 points, 3 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul.

Jaedyn Penning: 8 points, 1 steal, 1 foul.

Kennedy Hansen: 7 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 foul.

Brooklyn Hansen: 1 assist, 4 fouls.

Rylee Dunker: 6 points, 2 rebounds 2 steals 2 fouls.

Faith Traphagen: 2 points 4 rebounds 1 assist 3 steals, 1 foul.

Laila Roberts: 7 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals, 1 foul.



Kennedy Hansen eyes Britton-Hecla's Daynika Zuehlke before make her move. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Laila Roberts has an outstanding night with seven points, six rebounds, five assists and three steals. She got the steal here and made her way to the basket for the layup. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Is Canada South Dakota's biggest trading partner?

By Megan Luther
South Dakota News Watch

Yes.

Like most northern states, South Dakota's biggest trading partner is Canada.

In 2023, South Dakota exported \$1.9 billion worth of goods to Canada and \$1.4 billion to its No. 2 trading partner, Mexico. It also imported the most goods from Canada, followed by China and Brazil. The top export was soybeans and the biggest import was machinery.

The state's export numbers mirror the U.S. as a whole, with Canada being the top importer of U.S. goods for several years.

Canada is also the top importer in 23 states, supplying the largest amount of grain, livestock, meat and poultry to the U.S., according to Visual Capitalist.

Canada's proximity along with its complementary agricultural interests and favorable trade agreements explain its status as the nation's top trading partner.



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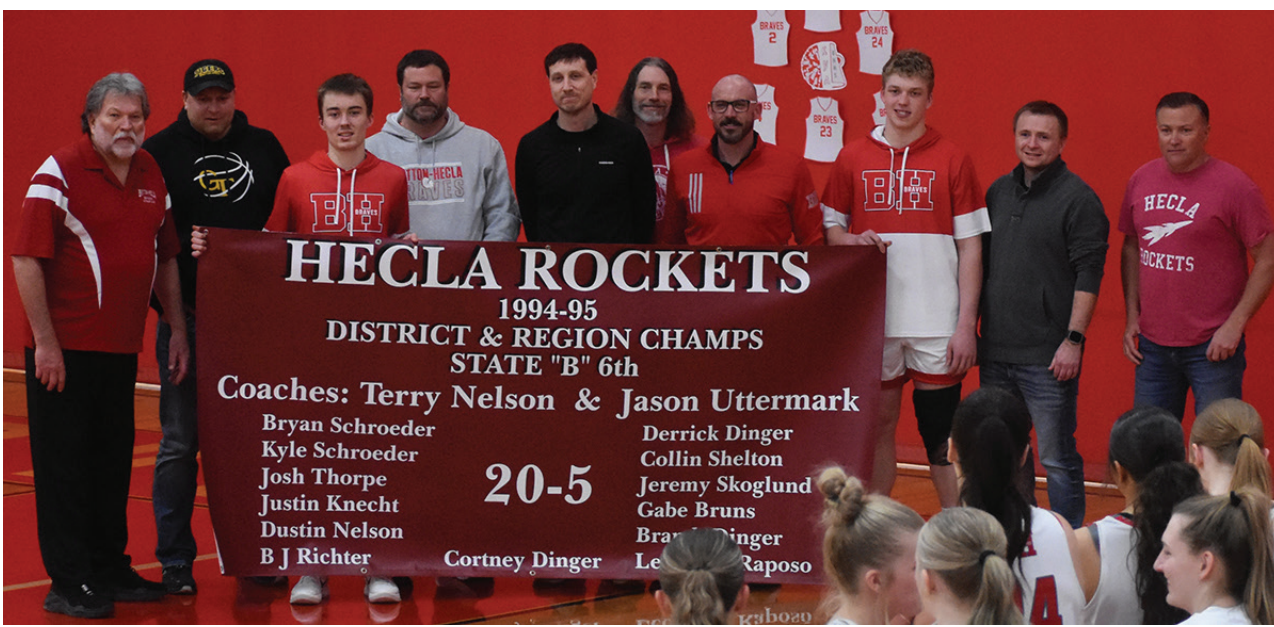
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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It's been 30 years since the Hecla Rockets made it to the state tournament and this was Coach Terry Nelson's first year as coaching in Hecla. The team was recognized Friday night during the basketball game. Nelson is now the girls coach for the Britton-Hecla Braves. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Strange BUT TRUE

* The Climbing Gourami is a fish that can climb out of water, breathe oxygen and even walk for short distances.

* India has 454 living languages and 16 official ones.

* During her 1982 restoration, the Statue of Liberty's head was accidentally installed 2 feet off-center.

* General George S. Patton believed he was

reincarnated from either a military leader from Napoleon's army or a Roman legionary, claiming to have seen combat multiple times in previous lives, and also believed that after he died he would return to again lead armies onto the battlefield.

* Only deceased people can appear on American currency.

* When put under a microscope, tears produced by grief, hope or onions were unique in form from each other.

* Viking names included such gems as "desirous of beer," "able to fill a bay with fish by magic," "lust-hostage" and "the man who mixes his drinks."

* North Korea accidentally hit one of its own cities during a 2017 failed missile test.

* In 1916, a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution would have put all acts of war to a national vote. Anyone voting "yes" would have to register as a volunteer for army service.

* Dynamite was originally going to be called "Nobel's Safety Powder."

* Singer James Brown was such a strict bandleader that he had signals arranged with his manager to let him know if a musician made a mistake during concerts. After a performance, band members' errors were deducted from their paychecks.

* Ostriches are the only birds with a bladder.

* In 1872, sitting president Ulysses S. Grant was pulled over and fined \$20 for exceeding the Washington speed limit ... on a horse.

* Aristotle believed that plants had souls.

Thought for the Day: "Life is painting a picture, not doing a sum." -- Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

tricks to get you to reveal it.

Scammers might contact you to offer you a "cheaper" Medicare but will need your personal information to sign you up. Don't fall for it.

They might impersonate a Medicare employee and say that your card is about to expire and you need a new one. They'll ask for your current card number and your personal information to verify it's really you. (Wrong: Medicare cards don't expire.)

Scammers might call and say that your Medicare benefits have been canceled, but claim they can help you get the benefits reinstated if you give them your personal information or even a fee. (Wrong: Medicare won't communicate with you that way, and if they need to contact you, it will be by mail.)

Thieves might try to claim that your old paper card isn't good now and that you need a new one with a chip in it, like a credit card. (Wrong: Medicare cards are only made of paper.)

They might offer you a refund of some type or something free, or you might be offered genetic testing. All you need to do, they'll say, is give them your Medicare card number ... and your bank information for the refund.

Whether you're contacted by phone, email or text message, don't give out your Medicare card number or any of your personal or financial information.

As usual, if you suspect you have a scammer on the phone, hang up immediately. If you believe it was an attempt at a Medicare scam, call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) to report it. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Don't fall for Medicare scams

Medicare card scams are on the rise. During one calendar year, Medicare had over \$100 billion in fraudulent claims, and the damage cost goes up when identity theft and stolen financial information are added in.

What the Medicare thieves want is your card number, and they'll try any number of

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Dear EarthTalk: What does USAID do for climate and environment and how will that change now if President Trump is allowed to dismantle the agency?

-- James C., via email



If the Trump administration is able to gut USAID as intended, global climate mitigation efforts could be in jeopardy. Credit: Staff Sgt. Keith James / U.S. Air Force, FlickrCC.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been a leader in global environmental efforts, supporting initiatives that promote sustainability, cut emissions and build resilience in vulnerable regions. Proposed efforts by President Trump to dismantle the agency have raised concerns about the broader impact on global climate action, of which USAID has played a crucial role.

USAID's Climate Strategy (2022-2030) outlines a plan for reducing emissions, enhancing resilience and promoting sustainable development across multiple sectors and regions. The agency has set ambitious goals, like helping partner countries avoid six billion metric tons of carbon emissions by 2030. Through targeted programs, USAID has helped countries transition toward renewable energy by funding solar and wind projects. Their efforts to prevent deforestation and promote reforestation have protected critical ecosystems, while climate-smart agriculture programs improve food security and help farmers adapt to changing weather. USAID has played key roles in advancing water security via sustainable resource management and providing disaster preparedness support to communities facing climate-related crises—all supported through partnerships with local governments, nonprofits and international organizations.

If Trump succeeds in shutting USAID, the impact will be severe, slowing progress on emissions reduction and resilience-building, especially in developing countries. Vulnerable communities already facing extreme weather, rising sea levels and food insecurities will lose vital support. Eliminating USAID will

harm U.S. foreign relations, as climate aid is a key factor in global diplomacy.

Long-term, dismantling USAID will weaken global climate action, of which the U.S. has historically been a leader. Others nations might reduce their own climate fund, creating ripple effects that undermine worldwide efforts to tackle climate change. The most vulnerable populations would be hardest hit, as climate aid is essential for achieving sustainability goals and ensures climate justice.

The potential elimination of USAID raises serious concern about U.S. leaderships in global climate efforts. As climate change intensifies, international collaborations and sustain investments in mitigations and adaptation are more critical. Maintaining USAID's role in environmental projects isn't just policy decisions—it's necessary for ensuring a sustainable future for communities worldwide.

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pecially in developing countries. Vulnerable communities already facing extreme weather, rising sea levels and food insecurities will lose vital support. Eliminating USAID will

"Abnormal Electrical Signals"

Atrial fibrillation is probably a diagnosis you have heard of, if not because a friend or family member has it, because it has been mentioned in a public advertisement or pharmaceutical commercial.



Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD

Atrial fibrillation (or "A-fib") is the most common cardiac arrhythmia, a condition estimated by the American Heart Association to be present in more than five million Americans.

A-fib happens when abnormal electrical signals occurring throughout the cardiac atria (upper chambers of the heart) override the normal intrinsic electrical pacemaker. Sometimes this causes symptoms such as heart palpitations, dizziness, poor exercise tolerance, or heart failure. In many cases, however, patients have no symptoms at all. I can recall numerous instances of finding A-fib in a patient simply by listening to their heart on a routine exam and finding the heart rhythm to be irregular. The widespread use of smartwatches and other monitoring devices is alerting people to the possibility of A-fib with greater frequency.

Atrial fibrillation is diagnosed by an electrocardiogram (ECG) or a longer term heart rhythm monitor. When we find A-fib, we should look for any underlying causes such as heart valve problems, heart failure, and even thyroid disease. More frequently, A-fib does not have any single cause; it can occur for no particular reason, but a person's risk of it increases with numerous factors including obesity, heavy alcohol use, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, and of course advancing age.

Treatment of atrial fibrillation has various options, which include medication to keep the heart from going too fast, medication to keep the heart in a normal rhythm, shocking the heart back into normal rhythm, or a catheter procedure to ablate the abnormally-firing portions of the cardiac tissue.

Of utmost importance, because in A-fib the atrial chambers do not effectively pump and empty blood into the lower chambers with each heartbeat, blood pools in some areas and has the risk of forming clots. This is why patients with atrial fibrillation are at elevated risk of a stroke and why for many of those patients we recommend taking a blood thinner long-term. We have tools to estimate stroke risk in an individual patient, so the discussion of blood thinners is one you should have with your primary care provider or cardiologist.

In summary, atrial fibrillation is a very common diagnosis, especially as patients get older. Our individualized approach to treatment focuses on control of symptoms and quality of life as well as reducing the risk of stroke.

Kelly Evans-Hullinger, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Internal Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, and on social media. Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc, most Thursday's at 7PM on SDPB and streaming on Facebook and listen to Prairie Doc Radio Sunday's at 6am and 1pm.

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